

The violent events of Memorial Day weekend lead **any** reasonable person dealing with reality to conclude that crime is **out-of-control** in Milwaukee. Those not living in denial about this **know** that our public spaces including our streets, our neighborhoods and parks in many areas are under the control of the criminal element.

Underclass values reign supreme, making law abiding citizens literal **prisoners** in their own homes, leaving parents unable to allow their children to even play **in front of their homes** and the **once-upon-a-time** secure feeling of sending their kids off to school has **vanished**. A nine-year-old girl shot in the neck during recess while at school and a 15-year-old boy beat to death as he came out of school.

This morass has also left passengers **apprehensive** about using public transportation, and has left people **afraid of enjoying public spaces**.

My disgust has turned into a real concern that law abiding people who have to live in these **malignant neighborhoods** and **public spaces** mired in crime and violence are beginning to feel **hopeless** about the ability of its leaders to do anything about it. Criminals feel it as well evidenced by the **arrogance** of committing acts of violence in **broad daylight** and in the presence of onlookers. They no longer worry about people calling the police and providing information because they have **intimidated them into inaction**. They know that this intimidation makes it difficult for law enforcement to catch up with them and **even if they do**, that the criminal justice system will not adequately punish them.

I refuse to concede that the fight against this evil element in our society is unwinnable. I'm through watching law-abiding people being **pushed around** like this by thugs. Too many people spew rhetoric about how committed they are to fighting violence. I've heard it all week and for the last several years, but instead of bold, immediate and decisive action we get tired weak rhetorical responses that the criminal element has to be laughing at. I always say don't tell me about your commitment--- **show me**.

The people standing with me here today are **demonstrating** their commitment and are **determined** to change things. **We are going to reclaim our public spaces including our streets, our neighborhoods, our schools, our parks and any other area that rightly belongs to those who play by society's rules**. It's going to be an arduous task so please don't ask me

next week about how we're doing. I can't speak for anyone else but I'm in it for the long haul **and we will win.**

It starts by sending a clear and convincing message to the criminal element. That message is that their **reign of terror is coming to an end and that we are going to fight back. They have terrorized our public spaces long enough.**

People are demanding **swift and effective official action**, not rhetoric. Skip the symposiums, the panel discussions and commissions. This is nothing more than classic work avoidance. Aggressive law enforcement **is** an effective triage. This is going to be a **tremendous challenge** at a time when public confidence in the police has been shaken. But we in law enforcement need **real** not **tacit support** from our government leaders. Law enforcement officers will be hesitant to be aggressive **if they do not feel they have the support from government leaders.**

Warnings don't work. Arrests,, sending criminals to jail,, while not a cure-all,, will at least **separate the criminal element** from our public spaces providing **calm, tranquility** and a **sense of security** that will allow our public spaces to be enjoyed the way they were **meant to be.**

This week I have heard from elected officials, individuals and citizen groups about their concern for their safety in and around parks, and previously about safety on county buses. The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office mission is to partner with the community and to respond to those things that concern the community the most. We have taken our parks patrol plan that was drawn up in 2004 which is seasonal, and adjusted it to emerging problems in the park that are occurring today.

We do not undertake **any initiate without a written plan** that is comprehensive and specific. Our plans are **flexible** and allow us to meet the demands of our dynamic community. Law enforcement is important to people **but it has to be affordable.** Our plans are sensitive to the needs of the people paying the bills and this has to be balanced by my **state-mandated obligation** to keep the people of this county safe. Our plans set objectives that are **measurable** and followed up on.

To accomplish this I have ordered the formation of the **Targeted Enforcement Unit.** Twenty-five deputy sheriffs will be assigned. These resources are obtained from the Gun Reduction Interdiction Unit and six additional deputies are assigned to form the **Targeted Enforcement Unit.** This unit can be **quickly deployed** to changing situations. For now they

will focus primarily on maintaining safety in Milwaukee County parks seven days a week until Labor Day and supplementing existing transit security resources for the Milwaukee County Transit System. Additionally this unit will provide the Office of the Sheriff the flexibility to respond to exigent traffic situations on the freeway system, requests for assistance by other law enforcement agencies throughout Milwaukee County as well as requests for additional deputies at special events.

To dispel any speculation no personnel were taken from the courts or the freeway patrol division to staff this unit.